

## **Joint Letter**

*from the Defence Ministers of*

**Belgium**

**Croatia**

**Czech Republic**

**Denmark**

**Germany**

**Hungary**

**Luxembourg**

**the Netherlands**

**Norway and**

**Poland**

*on*

**joint implementation of the Framework Nations Concept**

*to*

**the NATO Secretary General**

*Dear Secretary General,*

*Building on our discussions on the Framework Nations Concept during our last Defence Ministerials, we would like to inform you about steps we have taken towards, and our future ambitions regarding, joint implementation of the Framework Nations Concept.*

*Given the continuously changing security environment, the Alliance must have and maintain all requisite capabilities to perform its core tasks flexibly, rapidly and effectively, as well as to ensure its responsiveness to future challenges. Our aim is to establish a coherent set of deployable, interoperable and sustainable forces that are equipped, trained, exercised and commanded in a way that enables NATO's Level of Ambition to be met.*

*Thus, we - as European Allies - intend to improve the sharing of responsibilities across the Alliance by further strengthening our capabilities. A coherent set of capabilities is essential for the security and defence of Europe and will significantly contribute to the security of all citizens of Allied nations.*

*Germany has been pursuing Framework Nations Concept implementation efforts and has facilitated a series of seminars and bilateral talks. We have concluded during these discussions to look deeper into selected capability areas, with the objective of developing common projects.*

*In the spirit of the Framework Nations Concept, building on these initial steps, and as a first political deliverable, we - the Ministers of Defence of ten European NATO member states -*

- Recognize that the common and national capabilities of NATO and Allies constitute the unique strength of the Alliance.*
- Acknowledge that NATO's political Level of Ambition requires forces and capabilities which are interoperable and adequately prepared, as well as flexible and deployable, to undertake the full spectrum of Alliance's missions and to perform our three core tasks of collective defence, crisis management and cooperative security.*
- Emphasize the principles that underpin the Framework Nations Concept, namely Allied ownership, flexibility, primacy of the NDPP, national sovereignty, maintenance of the cohesion of the Alliance and development of usable forces and capabilities.*

- *Recall that the Framework Nations Concept allows for flexible, target-oriented and sustainable multinational capability development in the Alliance's critical capability priority areas at a time of complex security challenges and changing threats.*
- *Affirm that Framework Nations Concept implementation efforts will be compatible with existing initiatives, such as Smart Defence and the Connected Forces Initiative and its respective projects.*
- *Reaffirm our strong political will to continue developing the joint initiative, through tangible and enduring framework groupings in variable geometries, covering the entire capability development spectrum, among these nine Allies and Germany. Each signatory can act as lead nation for one or more of the identified areas within the framework groupings.*
- *Emphasize the particular importance of common training and exercises as a crucial element of capability development.*
- *Confirm the identification of common ground for collective cooperation in any given constellation of framework groupings covering one or more of the following eight Alliance capability priority areas:*
  - *NATO Command Structure (NCS) Command and Control (C2)*
  - *Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JISR)*
  - *Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD)*
  - *Deployable Air C2*
  - *Deployable Networks*
  - *Usability of Land Manoeuvre Formations*
  - *Deployable Medical Treatment Facilities*
  - *Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)*
- *Stand committed to intensify cooperation and to consequently deepen cooperation, by giving due consideration to all existing structures and identifying tangible Framework Nations Concept groupings in promising areas, such as Logistics, CBRN, Joint Fires and Deployable Headquarters, of which the Multinational Corps Northeast Headquarters in Szczecin or the Headquarters 1 German – Netherlands Corps in Münster are examples of frameworks for enhanced capability development.*

- *Encourage other Nations to join the framework groupings and to take on responsibility as a framework nation.*

*Sincerely,*

Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Belgium

Minister of Defence of the Republic of Croatia

Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic

Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Denmark

Federal Minister of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany

Minister of Defence of Hungary

Minister of Defence of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway

Minister of Defence of the Republic of Poland